Presentation of the Keys (1) Thurs. Aug 6/16

Doctor Thomas, Classmates, Past and Present Members of our College, and Friends:

It is with solemn and pathetic recollection that we turn again in our life's pilgrimage to this spot, fragrant with memories of two years ago, when we laid the foundation of this structure. Like the devotee of the Orient, we have returned to this shrine of our hearts' desire to pledge again our allegiance to the God who gave us our being in a happy land, patriotic, yet ever tender of her own.

If we are permitted to reach the Promised Land, it will be by successive efforts as we would accomplish an earthly journey, one step following another, till perseverance finally brings us to our journey's end, ~~and~~ as two years ago we first assembled on this sightly hill, to-day we come to the spot now so sacred to us, with thanksgiving and praise to a Kind Providence for this Holy Temple, pointing the way to the higher and the better life.

These two years have passed only too rapidly,

and I might say pleasantly, since the soil was first removed and the corner stone of this memorial chapel was placed on this, the highest portion of our campus, which made sacred our academic home. It was then determined that from this hallowed ground should arise this temple, and it was then presented to our President Thomas, for whom my respect and appreciation is ever increasing, to my beloved classmates and especially to my lifelong friend and classmate, Doctor Brainerd, for whom my love and admiration is growing stronger with every passing year, and to all others associated with our Alma Mater. On this occasion a common prayer was offered, that it should be a sacred duty devolving upon every person associated with our beloved college, to make this Temple an instrument of great good to those of this generation and to those of the distant future.

It was "the casting of the bread upon the waters" which should return to bless the many thousands who will succeed us, and through their influence and teaching should remain a blessing

to others, even in distant lands, who could never know when or where the sacred seed was planted.

As has been said, two years have been given to the planning and building of this chapel,- the growth has been slow, as it has been the earnest desire of your committee, to make the same complete in every detail, and specially worthy of the great and holy purpose, which it should serve, specially with the students of this college and all others associated with our Alma Mater.

A generation is but an incident in the great march of events, and, yet all-powerful for good or evil in individual lives or national welfare. As the sunset hour approaches, and we shall soon wend our way down to the Valley, let us cast one more lingering glance back toward this Memorial Chapel, enshrined high upon its throne, as the "Day God departs amid garments of royalty and beautiful jewels of horizon splendor".

"Let us seal our hearts anew with the inspiration that surrounds this Temple", centered as it is among the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks.

Truly we voluntarily exclaim, "The Strength of the Hills is His also".

May the solid masonry on which it is built speak to us of the firm foundation of our religious faith.

Its rising spire should remind us of the streets of the New Jerusalem, which, as we are told, are paved with gold. The chimes and the organ recall to us the Heavenly Hosts with their hymns of praise and devotion around that throne whose builder and maker is God.

Let these thoughts linger, reminding us that not simply for the present, but for all future ages, we have this day dedicated this Temple to the glory of our God and as a blessing to all eternity.

On this occasion and in behalf of your committee, I wish to express our high appreciation of the skill and untiring efforts of Messrs. Allen and Collins, your architects, in designing a structure so thoroughly in keeping with the style of architecture of the buildings upon your campus, and in accordance with the expressed wishes of your

committee, and to Mr. Rogers, I ~~wish to~~ would convey the thanks of your committee for his continued and untiring efforts to follow in every detail the designs submitted, often assisting with valuable suggestions,- the results of a lifelong experience; and to your committee in behalf of our Board of Trustees, as we are so soon to complete our task and to transfer the results of our endeavors to the proper college officials, I wish to state that no gentlemen could have been more earnest or more faithful in their efforts to accomplish the very best results with the means at their command, than have President Thomas, Doctor Brainerd and Judge Weeks, and I personally wish to assure them of my sincere appreciation for their patience and great kindness during certain periods of unreasonable anxiety on my part to make this Memorial Chapel in every way worthy of the noble and inspiring purpose which prompted its erection.

With our labor of love and devotion all complete, it is with great pleasure and an honor that I, through him who assisted me some two years since

"in removing the soil" for the "setting of the corner stone", and who placed under the same his token of love - his Bible and a short history of his relation to those who made this Temple possible; as I stated, it is with pleasure, that through him, I may present to you, Doctor Brainerd, former President of this College, the keys to the Mead Memorial Chapel, and may the Kind Providence who governs all our efforts for the greatest good and happiness of his children, give you all strength and wisdom, that your and our fondest and most extravagant anticipations of this day may be more than realized, in the years that are to come.

J.A. MEAD '64